

NEW YORK BIRTH CONTROL REBEL IS FED FORCIBLY—MRS. SANGER EXPLAINS FIGHT

CHICAGO WOMEN DISAPPROVE HUNGER STRIKE, BUT FAVOR BIRTH REGULATION

New York, Jan. 27. — Mrs. Ethel Byrne, hunger striking in protest against conviction for disseminating birth control literature and advice, was forcibly fed early today in the hospital at Blackwell's island workhouse. She had gone more than five full days without food and water and was reported to have collapsed shortly before midnight.

New York, Jan. 27.—Mrs. Ethel Byrne faces "death or insanity" in her hunger strike at Blackwell's Island prison "as a protest against state laws against birth control that cause the death annually of 8,000 working mothers in New York and a quarter of a million in the nation."

She is hunger-striking because she has been "denied the inalienable right to test the constitutionality of that law," Mrs. Margaret Sanger, her sister and co-defendant in the birth control cases, declared today in a statement written for the United Press.

"Birth control is not an attack on the birth rate as such," says Mrs. Sanger. "It is a scientifically just and humane effort to prevent the birth of more children than parents can endow with strong bodies, sound minds and a fair chance in the battle of life. Nothing more."

Chicago women, while unanimous in their advocacy of some kind of birth control reform, are equally united in censuring Mrs. Ethel Byrne for adopting English suffragist tactics in protesting against her incarceration at Blackwell's Island.

"We are rapidly approaching a time when we will deal with some phase of the birth control problem,"

Mrs. Harriet Vittum, head of Northwestern Settlement, said. "It is as much our duty to protect society as to conserve our natural resources. We raise pedigreed cattle and chickens, but we never worry about what kind of children are brought into the world. A few years ago we were afraid to even mention vice. Now we deal with it in a matter of fact way and call it by its right name."

"As for Mrs. Byrne's tactics in starting a hunger strike, that may be her method of protesting. Others wouldn't use such methods."

Miss Jane Addams, after refusing to talk about the San Francisco "Magdalenes," was equally positive that she had nothing to say about birth control or Mrs. Byrne.

"I'll be able to discuss those questions in a few months, after I recover from my present illness," she said.

Mrs. Joseph Tilton Bowen, close associate and personal friend of Miss Addams, strongly rebuked advisors of Mrs. Byrne for allowing the hunger strike and resulting publicity.

"I am thoroughly out of sympathy with Mrs. Byrne's hunger strike and the disgusting publicity that is sought by her advisors," she said. "I am really in accord with her views on birth control and believe that scientific knowledge along such lines should be disseminated through reputable physicians or others competent to teach it, but I don't sanction breaking laws to attain desired ends. It would be much more sensible if Mrs. Byrne and her associates would devote their energies toward securing the repeal of the obnoxious law."

Mrs. Harriet Stokes Thompson, president of the Chicago Political Equality league, said:

"I believe in quality and not quantity. I'm against race suicide and also against indiscriminate raising of